GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CORPORATE AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4552
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2016
Panel on Prices of Pulses
Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Mohan Shri P. C.;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Confederation of All India Traders has blamed the big retailers for present crisis of pulses in the country and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(b) whether the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has initiated an inquiry into the alleged anti-competitive practices behind the surging prices of pulses and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CCI has also formed an internal panel to study the market forces controlling the prices of pulses as the commodity has experience a significant price rise during the last one year;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the issues to be studied by the panel and the time by which the said panel is likely to be submitted its report to the Government; and

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(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the unfair business practices/cartelisation in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

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(a) While the Ministry of Corporate Affairs is not aware that the Confederation of All India Traders has blamed big retailers for the present crisis of pulses in the country, the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has stated that the recent rise in prices of pulses is mainly on account of shortfall in domestic production due to adverse weather conditions, along with an increase in demand, due to rise in population and per capita income, as well as change in food habits.

(b) & (c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It has been stated by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, that the steps taken by the Government include strict enforcement of the Essential Commodities (EC) Act, 1955 and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essentials (PBMMSE) Act, 1980; strict vigilance by the Government to prevent importers from misusing the facilities of Customs Bonded Warehouse facility; regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization, imposition of stock limit on pulses, etc.

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